

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A cutting head for a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, the head comprising a passage for a cutter string and a movable locking element for locking the string between the locking element and a backing wall, wherein a cross-section of the locking element taken transversely to the string presents at least one recess forming a longitudinal groove extending along the string, with contact being made between the locking element and the string at least on either side of the longitudinal groove.
2. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking element includes gripping arrangements for gripping the string.
3. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 2, characterized in that the gripping arrangements comprise teeth.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the groove presents a rounded section.
6. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the groove presents an angular section.
7. (Original) A cutting head according to claim 6, characterized in that the groove presents a rectangular section.
8. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the groove is of width smaller than the width of the string.

9. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking element is of section substantially complementary to the section of the string.
10. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the groove presents a V-shaped section.
11. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the groove presents a circularly arcuate section.
12. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking element comprises a cam.
13. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking element comprises a shoe that is movable in translation.
14. (Previously Presented) A vegetation cutting device such as a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, characterized in that it includes a cutting head according to claim 1 and a motor suitable for driving said head in rotation.
15. (Previously Presented) A cutting head for a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, the head being of the type including a passage for a cutter string and a moving element for locking the string, suitable for locking the string between itself and a backing wall, the head being characterized in that the locking element presents two rows of teeth separated by a central groove.
16. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 15, characterized in that the groove presents a rounded section.

17. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 15, characterized in that the groove presents an angular section.

18. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 15, characterized in that the groove presents a rectangular section.

19. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 15, characterized in that the groove is of width smaller than the width of the string.

20. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 15, characterized in that the locking element is of section substantially complementary to the section of the string.

21. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 15, characterized in that the groove presents a V-shaped section.

22. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 15, characterized in that the groove presents a circularly arcuate section.

23. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 15, characterized in that the locking element comprises a cam.

24. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 15, characterized in that the locking element comprises a shoe that is movable in translation.

25. (Previously Presented) A vegetation cutting device comprising a cutting head according to claim 15 and a motor suitable for driving said head in rotation.

26. (New) A cutting head for a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, the head comprising a passage for a cutter string having a square cross-section and a movable locking element for

locking the string between the locking element and a backing wall, wherein a cross-section of the locking element taken transversely to the string presents at least one recess forming a longitudinal groove extending along the string, with contact being made between the locking element and the string at least on either side of the longitudinal groove, and wherein the backing wall has a V-shaped profile.

27. (New) A vegetation cutting device such as a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, including a cutting head according to claim 26 and a motor suitable for driving said head in rotation.

28. (New) A cutting head for a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, the head being of the type including a passage for a cutter string having a square cross-section and a moving element for locking the string, suitable for locking the string between itself and a backing wall, the head being characterized in that the locking element presents two rows of teeth separated by a central groove, wherein the backing wall has a V-shaped profile.

29. (New) A vegetation cutting device such as a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, characterized in that it includes a cutting head according to claim 28 and a motor suitable for driving said head in rotation.

30. (New) A cutting head for a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, the head comprising a passage for a cutter string and a movable locking element for locking the string between the locking element and a backing wall, wherein the locking element comprises a shoe that is movable in translation and wherein a cross-section of the locking element taken transversely to the string presents at least one recess forming a longitudinal groove extending along the string, with contact being made between the locking element and the string at least on either side of the longitudinal groove.

31. (New) The cutting head of claim 30, wherein the shoe is placed in a housing comprising a face inclined relative to the longitudinal direction of the cutter string, the shoe being adapted to slide against said inclined face, and wherein the shoe is urged towards the cutter string by a pressure spring.

32. (New) A cutting head for a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, the head comprising a passage for a cutter string and a movable locking element for locking the string between the locking element and a backing wall, wherein a cross-section of the locking element taken transversely to the string presents at least one recess forming a longitudinal groove extending along the string, with contact being made between the locking element and the string at least on either side of the longitudinal groove, and wherein the face of the locking element in contact with the string is generally parallel to the string.

33. (New) A vegetation cutting device such as a brush cutter, edge trimmer or similar, characterized in that it includes a cutting head according to claim 32 and a motor suitable for driving said head in rotation.